

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended and non-elected claims 7 and 8 are cancelled. A marked up version showing the changes made by the present amendment is attached hereto as "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 4 and 5 are amended in response to the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (JP '738) taken view of Steube, Baer, or Applicant's description of the prior art. Favorable reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

Yamada is cited for showing the basic elements of the claimed invention. Yamada is directed to coating synthetic material, as opposed to the presently amended claims. Steube, Baer and the admitted prior art are merely cited to illustrate the position of the tubular barrel with respect to an evaporation source.

Claim 1 has been amended to require an evaporating section for at least one depositing material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zinc, tin, and magnesium and an alloy containing at least one of these metal components, and a tubular barrel formed of mesh net for accommodation of rare earth metal based permanent magnets. None of the cited references teaches or suggests such features.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the above references and further in view of Humphrey and/or Yira. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The additional references are cited for their teachings directed to dividing the tubular barrel into plural subsections. However, these references fail to provide the teachings which the primary references lack, as noted above.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baer, Humphrey and Yira. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

In this rejection, Baer is applied as a primary reference showing the basic features of the claims. However, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention, i.e., the combination fails to teach an evaporating section for at least one depositing material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zinc, tin and magnesium, and an alloy containing at least one of these metal components, or a tubular barrel for accommodation of rare earth metal-based permanent magnets.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over DDR patent document DD 244993. The European Search Report had cited this reference as mere technological background. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

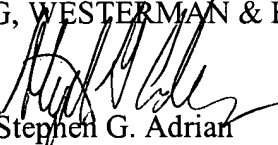
The Examiner asserts that DD 244993 provides a vacuum evaporation coating apparatus having a vacuum evaporation source and a rotatable barrel inside a vacuum chamber, the rotatable barrel allegedly divided into plural sections. However, Fig. 2 clearly indicates that the barrel is not divided into separate chambers. Thus, for at least this reason, claims 4 and 5 are not anticipated. Furthermore, for the same reasons as discussed above, DD 244993 does not teach or suggest the features of the amended claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time; Version with markings to show changes made
Q:\FLOATERS\SGA\01\010337\AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 5 as follows:

1. (Amended) A deposited-film forming apparatus comprising an evaporating section for [a] at least one depositing material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zinc, tin and magnesium and an alloy containing at least one of these metal components, and a tubular barrel formed of a mesh net for accommodation of [work pieces] rare earth metal-based permanent magnets, on each of the surfaces of which a depositing material is to be deposited, said evaporating section and said tubular barrel being mounted in a vacuum-treating chamber, wherein said tubular barrel is supported circumferentially outside a horizontal rotational axis of a support member rotatable about said rotational axis, for rotation about said rotational axis, so that the distance between said tubular barrel rotated about said rotational axis of said support member and said evaporating section [can be] is varied by rotating said support member.

4. (Amended) A deposited-film forming apparatus comprising an evaporating section for [a] at least one depositing material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zinc, tin and magnesium and an alloy containing at least one of these metal components, and a tubular barrel [rotatable about a horizontal rotational axis and] formed of a mesh net for accommodation of [work pieces] rare earth metal-based permanent magnets, on each of the surfaces of which a depositing material is to be deposited, said evaporating section and said tubular barrel being mounted in a vacuum-treating chamber, wherein [the inside of] said tubular barrel is [divided into]

two or more accommodating sections, said accommodating sections being defined, so that the distance between said accommodating [section] sections and said evaporating section [can be] is varied by rotating said tubular barrel.

5. (Amended) A deposited-film forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the inside of said tubular barrel is divided [radiately] from [a] said horizontal rotational axis to the outside of said tubular barrel into two or more accommodating sections.